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Rivers Committee Congratulates CIA For Links To NSA

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WASHINGTON — A House Armed Services subcommittee chaired by Rep. L. Mendel Rivers Friday commended the Central Intelligence Agency for its controversial behind-the-scenes support of the National Students Association and said the arrangement had helped block a communist takeover of youth groups.

Not only was the CIA correct in making the deal but would have been "derelict" in its duty had it turned down the NSA plea for help, the subcommittee said in a statement issued jointly by Rivers and William Bates (R-Mass.) ranking minority member.

The subcommittee endorsement came after a lengthy closed-door meeting with CIA Director Richard Helms and others who were not identified in the statement.

The sole reason for the CIA subsidy, the statement said, was to provide financial support for NSA overseas activities.

The money was used, it was stressed, to finance participation of American students "holding independent views" in international meetings to "counter communist attempts to take over foreign student organizations."

NOT ESPIONAGE

Espionage was in no way involved, the Rivers statement stressed, "but the survival of freedom was."

He emphasized that communists have been concentrating on student groups since the end of World War II in "their effort to control people and ideas" and said that "by 1950 were successful to the point they had little opposition."

It was in light of that situation that NSA leaders sought the CIA help "which was forthcoming — and has now served its purpose."

The statement stressed, too, that full details of the CIA-NSA arrangement, though not made public, "had been known to every administration since 1952."

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